

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20 and 22-27 were pending at the time of the Office Action. Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended. These amendments add no new subject matter and are supported by the specification at p. 13, lines 18-20 and in Fig. 9, among other places.

Claims 1-2, 6-11, 15-20 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,191,797, issued to Politis, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,633, issued to Apparao et al. However, the Politis patent does not suggest a generating step, which generates a new merged object including at least a first source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object, as recited in Claim 1.

The Apparao et al. patent cannot overcome this deficiency of the Politis patent, because the Apparao et al. patent does not disclose generating a new object or sprite. In the terms employed in the Apparao et al. patent, "sprite" means an object that has a draw method. See Column 8, lines 14-15. Rather than suggesting that a sprite engine generates new objects, the Apparao et al. patent recites that each sprite registers itself with the sprite engine. See Abstract, see line 8; column 4, lines 22-26; column 8, lines 22-27; column 8, lines 45-52 and column 10, lines 59-61. When a sprite must be drawn, the sprite engine invokes the sprite's registered drawing function. Column 8, lines 4-6.

Viewed most favorably, the Apparao et al. patent describes generating a new object with an application, which application subsequently registers an object with the sprite engine and keeps the sprite engine informed of any changes in the object. At most, the sprite engine determines when the object is to be printed. The Apparao et al. patent does not teach or suggest generating means that generate a new, merged object, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the

rejection of claim 1 under the Politis patent in view of the Apparao et al. patent is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

The arguments set forth above for claim 1 apply equally well to dependent claims 2 and 4–9, independent claim 10, dependent claims 11 and 13–18, independent 19 and dependent claims 20 and 22–27. Therefore, the rejection under §103(a) over the Politis patent in view of the Apparao et al. patent is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1–2, 4–11, 13–20 and 22–27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,117, issued to Berend et al., in view of the Apparao et al. patent. The Berend et al. patent teaches a method for editing an outline curve, which is explained at column 51, lines 1–35 of the Berend et al. patent. In order to cause overlapping portions of the outline curve not to be displayed, attribute control points are added at the points where the curves intersect. The opacity value at each control point is set to zero so that the overlapping sections of each boundary curve are rendered invisible when displayed. Column 51, lines 21–29 of the Berend et al. patent. However, editing the outline curves in an overlapped portion to be invisible does not change the number of bodies. Only the outline curves are changed.

For example, Fig. 62b shows outline curves in the overlapped portion as invisible after editing, but the overlapped bodies in the two objects are still present in Fig. 62b. The Berend et al. patent is actually silent on the subject of manipulating the bodies of the objects. Therefore, the Berend et al. patent cannot suggest generating means that generate a new, merged object including a first source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object, as recited in Claim 1.

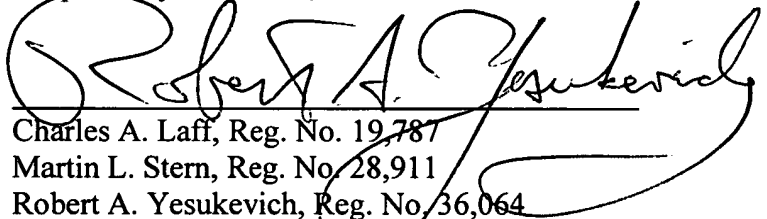
The Apparao et al. patent cannot remedy this deficiency in the Berend et al. patent because, as explained above, the Apparao et al. patent is silent on the subject of generating a new object. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 over Berend et al. in view of Apparao et al. is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

The reasons set forth in favor of patentability for claim 1 apply equally well to dependent claims 2 and 4-9, independent claim 10, dependent claims 13-18, independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20 and 22-27. Therefore, the rejection under §103 over the Berend et al. patent in view of the Apparao et al. patent is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that all objections have been overcome. Allowance of the subject application and all pending claims is courteously solicited. In the alternative, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Amendments with Marking to Show Changes

In the Claims:

1. (Three times amended) An apparatus for converting an original set of source objects by reducing the number of objects required to display a description document, said apparatus comprising a generating means for generating a set of new objects, from said original set of source objects in the document, a number of new objects in said set of new objects being fewer than a number of objects in said original set of source objects, said fewer objects obtaining a display image equivalent to the display of an image obtained from said original set of source objects,

wherein said generating means generates said new objects from a transparent or translucent source object and other source objects located at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating means generates a new merged object including at least a first source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object.

10. (Three times amended) A method for converting an original set of source objects by reducing the number of objects required to display a description document, said method comprising a step of generating a set of new objects, from said original set of source objects in the document, a number of said new objects forming a set of new objects fewer than a number of said source objects forming said original set of source objects, to obtain a display image equivalent to the display image obtained from said set of source objects,

wherein said generation step generates said new objects from a transparent or translucent

source object and other source objects located at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating step generates a new merged object including at least a first source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object.

19. (Three times amended) A computer program for causing a computer to execute a method for converting an object display description document by reducing the number of objects required for the display, said method comprising a generation step of generating, from an original set of source objects in the document, a set of new objects which are fewer than a number of said objects forming said original set of source objects, in order to obtain a display image equivalent to the display image obtained from said original set of source objects,

wherein said generation step generates new objects from a transparent or translucent source object and other source objects located at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating step generates a new merged object including at least a first source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object.

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